Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

REPORT OF THE TERRITORIAL YOUTH FORUM TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

OCTOBER 28, 1985

86-06531/

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPEAKER

The Honourable Donald M. Stewart
(MLA, Hay River)
Youth Delegates:
Treva Readman - Hay River
Gwen Young - Hay River

ANGOTTITAURUQ, Michael
(MLA, Natilikmiot)
Sandy Buchan - Spence Bay

APPAQAQ, Moses
(MLA, Hudson Bay)
Lizzie Novalinga - Sanikiluaq
Sam Qavvik - Sanikiluaq

ARKLOOTOO, Joe
(MLA, Baffin South)
Mary Akavak - Lake Harbour
Maksaykak Syllah - Cape Dorset

BALLANTYNE, Michael
(MLA, Yellowknife North)
Diane Betsina - Yellowknife
Wayne Walsh - Yellowknife

BUTTERS, The Hon. Tom
(MLA, Inuvik)
Stewart Gordon - Inuvik
Theresa Lalonde - Inuvik
Lori Greenland - Inuvik

COURNOYEA, The Hon. Nellie
(MLA, Nunakput)
Josh Hunter - Fort Smith

CURLEY, The Hon. Tagak
(MLA, Aivilik)
Selma Karetak - Rankin Inlet
Tom Bruce - Coral Harbour

ERKLOO, Elijah
(MLA, Amittuq)
Anna Koonoo - Pond Inlet
Mat Evalu - Igloolik
Jobie Ulayuk - Igloolik

GARGAN, Samuel
(MLA, Deh Cho)
Valantine Elieze - Fort Providence
Verda Tambour - Fort Providence

LAWRENCE, Eliza
(MLA, Tu Nedhe)
James Marlowe - Snowdrift
Patrick Simon - Fort Resolution
Paul Boucher - Fort Resolution

MacQUARRIE, Robert
(MLA, Yellowknife Centre)
Sandy Kim - Yellowknife
Sylvia Haener - Yellowknife

McCALLUM, Arnold
(MLA, Slave River)
Simon Brown - Fort Smith
Nola Benwell - Fort Smith

McLAUGHLIN, The Hon. Bruce
(MLA, Pine Point)
Connie Johns - Pine Point
Dean Van Cleemput - Pine Point

NERYSOO, The Hon. Richard
(MLA, Mackenzie Delta)
Jane Charlie - Fort McPherson
Jeannie Firth - Fort McPherson
Norma Edwards - Aklavik

PANILOO, Pauloosie
(MLA, Baffin Central)
Mosesee Keenainak - Pangnirtung
Neevie Paniloo - Clyde River

PATTERSON, The Hon. Dennis
(MLA, Iqaluit)
Francis Piugattuk - Frobisher Bay
Bev Cousins - Frobisher Bay
Fiona Paton - Frobisher Bay
Patrick Tagoona - Frobisher Bay

PEDERSEN, Red
(MLA, Kitikmeot West)
Harry Aknavigak - Cambridge Bay
Fred Pedersen - Coppermine

PUDLUK, Ludy
(MLA, High Arctic)
Moses Naquitavik - Arctic Bay
Elizabeth Qavavauq - Arctic Bay

RICHARD, Ted
(MLA, Yellowknife South)
Monica Richinger - Yellowknife
Wade Hamer - Yellowknife

SIBBESTON, The Hon. Nick
(MLA, Nahendeh)
Norman Modeste - Fort Simpson
Violet Jumbo - Trout Lake

T'SELEIE, John
(MLA, Sahtu)
Vivian Edgi - Fort Good Hope

WAH-SHEE, James
(MLA, Rae-Lac La Martre)
Sabrina Dragon - Rae
Cecilia Rabesca - Rae
Tony Rabesca - Rae

WRAY, The Hon. Gordon
(MLA, Kivallivik)
Emily Tutanuak - Baker Lake
Sally Karetak - Eskimo Point
Susan Amarook - Baker Lake
Susan Aglukark - Eskimo Point

YOUTH COORDINATORS

Jan Buxton - Yellowknife
Jerry Paulette - Fort Smith

YOUTH PREVENTION WORKERS

Mercie Evetalegak
Clayton Nahanni
David Bernhardt

Jack Omilgoetok
Cathy Tanche
Sonia DeBassige

Jo Ann Charlie
Leetia Ipeelee
Noah Tiktak

Markoosie Onalik
Francis Ayaruak
Shirley Snowshoe

Doreen Redshaw - Coordinator

SPONSORING MINISTERS

The Honourable Bruce McLaughlin
Minister of Health and Social Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.

The Honourable Andrée Champagne
Minister of State for Youth
Government of Canada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1985

	PAGE
Prayer	1
Speaker's Opening Remarks	1
Address by the Hon. Andrée Champagne, Minister of State for Youth	2
Comments by the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin	3
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Presentations by Delegates to Youth Forum	
Opening Remarks - Ms Sandy Kim	4
Recommendations on Social Issues - Mr. Sam Qavvik	5
Recommendations on Education and Employment - Mr. Francis Piugattuk	5
Recommendations on Cross-Cultural Education - Mr. Jerry Paulette	6
Plan of Action - Ms Sabrina Dragon	8
Response by the Hon. Andrée Champagne, Minister of State for Youth	22
Report of Committee of the Whole of Presentations by Delegates to Youth Forum	24
Adjournment	24

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1985

PRAYER

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): O God, if Your Spirit be in us; if our minds be ready; our hands strong; we will work together, leaving behind every small and selfish motive, to care for this good land and to build a just and peaceful society to Thy glory. Amen.

Speaker's Opening Remarks

Please be seated. Just a short explanation of what has happened thus far this morning. We have duplicated as far as possible a formal opening the way we would normally open the House. However, the Mace is not in the position that it would normally be on top of the table on top of the two cushions because then we would be in formal session. We tried to duplicate it as closely as possible to show you the procedure that we go through to open the House.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I would like to welcome all of the youth delegates to this chamber today. This is the culmination of all your work over the past week and I and all the Members look forward to your presentation today. In recognition of this event we will produce a special issue of the Debates today for all of you to be able to read and keep.

I would like to welcome the Hon. Andrée Champagne, Minister responsible for Youth for Canada. It is indeed a pleasure to have you in the North and with us today.

---Applause

I would like to also recognize Senator Willie Adams. Senator Adams.

---Applause

And Mr. Dave Nickerson, MP for the Western Arctic.

---Applause

Before I ask the Minister to say a few words, I understand that Valantine Elleze and Stewart Gordon wish to make a presentation to this Assembly. Mr. Clerk, are these people here at this time?

MR. STEWART GORDON: As the two youngest members of the Youth Forum we would like to present this plaque to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The inscription "The International Youth Year, presented to the Legislative Assembly, thank you for inviting us to have a voice, 1985, the Youth Forum participants." Thank you very much.

---Applause

I would now like to call on the Hon. Andrée Champagne to say a few words. Madam Minister.

Address By The Hon. Andrée Champagne, Minister Of State For Youth

HON. ANDRÉE CHAMPAGNE: (Speaks in Inuktitut. Translation) Mr. Speaker, honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, young people who are attending this conference, ladies and gentlemen. I am very happy that I am able to attend this Legislative Assembly today. (Translation ends)

I am so pleased that you have invited me to participate in this rather unique finale to what has been a very full week of planning and discussion on the future of youth in the Northwest Territories. I would particularly like to thank and congratulate the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Minister of Social Services, for his foresight and leadership in organizing this very important forum. As I look about this new Legislative Assembly chamber, one of the things I find most difficult to sort out clearly is which of you are youth delegates and which are the Assembly Members.

---Laughter

I do not have statistical proof of this but I am sure that on the average this must be one of the youngest legislative bodies in Canada, and this is very reflective of the sheer vibrancy of this territory and its people. Yours is a very democratic Assembly in the sense that its make-up reflects the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of your citizens and the diversity and special needs of its many far-flung regions. Its youthfulness also reflects accurately the reality of this territory, and points out the important role that your young men and women must play in shaping your cultural, political and economic future.

As I travel about Canada during this International Youth Year, I stress again and again the importance of giving young people a chance to be heard -- of giving them an opportunity to get involved and to play a role in the decisions that affect their lives. If this is an important message in Canada as a whole, then here in the Northwest Territories it is absolutely vital. Almost six out of 10 citizens of this territory are 24 years of age or under. Now, let us think of it. This means that in only a few short years, this generation will be taking over much of the responsibility for this land and its people and the lives they will lead.

The problems of young people here are in some respects very similar to those of youth throughout Canada and, indeed, in other countries as well -- problems of lack of job opportunities, of lack of education and training, of alcohol and drug abuse, and of crime and the social disorders that can arise from insufficient outlets to harness the energy and talents of youth.

Challenges More Difficult In The North

In some ways, the challenges you face are more difficult than they are for others. You must deal with the realities of remoteness, of harsh climate and of continuing underemployment. Your territorial government and the federal government are working hard and continuously to solve the problems that these conditions impose. But governments cannot accomplish these tasks alone. They need the whole-hearted participation of citizens, of community leaders and of the particular qualities of vitality and determination that youth can provide. Business and industry have a role to play as well. They have a stake in our communities too, and one of the themes that I have stressed throughout this year is the importance of participation by the private sector in community development and in making use of the talents and energies of the young.

Given the opportunity, young people do respond and do get involved. My Ministry has just completed a nation-wide survey of youth projects and the results are very impressive. We did this survey to help give us ammunition, should it be needed, to convince doubters of the importance and the real value of youth participation in society. We also wanted to study youth activities carefully so that we can tailor our programs and our support along the most constructive possible lines.

We found young people actively engaged, mostly at the community level, in such diverse projects as "Teens Against Drunk Driving" and programs of assistance for the elderly and the mentally retarded. Young people are engaged in community radio broadcasting and hot-line telephone services to help other youths. They are working with young offenders and in crime prevention projects. Young Canadians have shown an entrepreneurial spirit as well, founding and running a whole range of small ventures -- often without any government or other subsidization.

The very vivid message I have received in meeting and talking with Canadian youth over the past year is that young people can participate very effectively when they are given the chance. They want a better chance to be heard. They want more of a say in the institutions that control their lives, and they want initiatives -- action programs in which they can participate. I think it is in all our interests to help them achieve these goals.

Five Youth Forums Held Across Canada

One of the highlights of our International Youth Year activities has been a series of five regional Youth Forums which have been held across Canada over the past six months. We have just completed a very successful final forum, in Ontario, this weekend. These forums were designed, as is this one, to give young people a chance to speak out and to put forward concrete proposals for action programs in which youth can participate. In designing and assessing the results of these forums, I have been ably assisted by my youth advisory committee, 24 young men and women from all walks of life across Canada, including David Kilabuk from the Northwest Territories. Early in the new year, we will be holding a National Youth Forum in Ottawa, at which time we will consolidate the findings and ideas put forward by the regional groups and develop concrete plans of action to enhance youth participation and youth action. I am looking forward to seeing some of you as part of that national effort.

I must stress that our government has a long-term commitment to supporting the aspirations and the programs of young Canadians. International Youth Year has provided us with an excellent platform from which to publicize the accomplishments and the needs of young people, but our efforts will not end or diminish on December 31st.

I have read with interest the brief presented last month by your territorial government to the special Senate Committee on Youth. I look forward to studying the brief which you are presenting today at this Assembly as well as the notes from the conference. All these are invaluable in helping me to understand better the needs and concerns of young people from all corners of our country. They will help us to design and develop programs and initiatives that will help young people to be heard and to play a more positive and prominent role in our society.

There has been really remarkable progress made here in the NWT in just the last few years -- progress toward responsible government, progress in economic diversification and community development and progress in learning to cope with the cultural shocks that have accompanied the advent of resource development and the influx of southerners that has accompanied it. But much work still lies ahead. The challenges that face your generation here in the NWT are truly enormous. As young leaders, you have a particularly responsible role to play. By participating actively in the life of your communities, by encouraging other young people to participate, and by serving as positive role models for the generation coming after you, you can make a significant contribution to the progress and development of this territory. Not only are you the future of our country, you are very much part of our present. Please never forget it.

I have confidence that you will succeed, just as I have confidence in the young people I have met all across this country. My best wishes to you and thank you once again for allowing me to participate in this historic meeting. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. I will call on Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Minister.

Comments By The Hon. Bruce McLaughlin

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I said I would be brief with my comments today and I used my opportunity last night to speak in general on the issue because I want to have the opportunity today for Members of the Assembly to ask questions of the youth after they make their presentations. So I will be fairly brief.

First I would like to thank very much the Hon. Andrée Champagne for travelling to Yellowknife for the forum today in this Assembly. And I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and your staff for the hard work they have done for making this opportunity available to us. And thank you in particular for hosting the reception Friday night for the youth. I would also like to formally now thank the Executive Council for their support of me in trying to get funds in the budget for this

event and I would like to also thank MLAs for their support when the budget was passed. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the MLAs on the excellent choice they made of youth delegates here today.

During the week they have taken part in a drug and alcohol conference and they conducted themselves very well. They had good attendance and I think they contributed greatly to that conference and most of them learned an awful lot. After having been in on some of the meetings over the weekend, and I believe other MLAs also took part, I think some of us should be literally looking over our shoulders two or three elections down the line. I think everybody knows that approximately 60 per cent of the population in the NWT is under the age of 25. We probably have the youngest population in Canada. I believe in Pelly Bay, as the Minister of Education will remember when we did public hearings there, I think it was pointed out to us in that community, that 52 per cent of the population was 12 and under. So we have a very large population of youth and up and coming youth in our jurisdiction. It is very important that we pay attention to that. The age group that is involved this weekend, the 16 to 25 year olds, represents 27 per cent of the residents of the NWT.

We also know some of the sad statistics, such as: 60 per cent of the sentencing by the courts goes to young males between the ages of 16 and 25; we have the highest suicide rate amongst youth in Canada; we have the highest rates of tobacco smoking and alcohol abuse amongst youth in Canada. There are many problems facing youth in the NWT. I would like to thank all the Members here and the youth for working toward this opportunity for you to be able to present to myself and to you, Mr. Speaker and the honourable federal Minister and the rest of the MLAs, your problems and outlines of what you think the solutions are for those problems. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time we will resolve into committee of the whole with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair. At this time now the floor will be open to the delegates and to your representatives. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Consideration In Committee Of The Whole Of Presentations By Delegates To Youth Forum

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. I would like to ask the Minister for Health and Social Services to introduce the witnesses.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five youth delegates who will be making a presentation this morning and I would like to introduce them by name and constituency. Starting on your right, Mr. Chairman, Sandy Kim representing Yellowknife Centre, Sam Qavvik representing Hudson's Bay, Francis Piugattuk representing Iqaluit, Jerry Paulette representing Slave River and Sabrina Dragon representing Rae-Lac la Martre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I would like to now ask Sandy Kim if she would be prepared to make a presentation. Sandy.

Opening Remarks

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Madam Minister, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, fellow youth delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The United Nations designated 1985 as the International Year of Youth and for the very first time in the history of the Legislature in the NWT the youth from all over this vast land of the Northwest Territories are brought together to meet this week to lend our government the first-hand observations and recommendations that concern us, the youth of the NWT.

The 1985 NWT Youth Forum has afforded the young people of the North an opportunity to begin working on a positive lifestyle for the future. We were addressed by many resource people throughout the week. Areas addressed were alcohol and drug abuse, education, suicide, culture, employment, community mobilization, recreation, positive lifestyles, justice, Young Offenders Act and other concerns of youth in general. Many workshops took place. Recommendations and observations were discussed in small groups and in large groups. The underlying statement throughout the conference was that we, as youth, must work together now and in the future. This presentation to the Legislative Assembly summarizes what we, the delegates, feel must be addressed by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Our summary of presentation is divided into four parts and I would first like to call upon Sam Qavvik from Igloolik to address the issues concerning social problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sam.

Recomendations On Social Issues

MR. SAM QAVVIK: I am from Sanikiluaq not Igloolik. Mr. Chairman, MLAs and Ministers, I would like to talk about social issues we came up with during our conference. We have three recommendations.

1) We recommend that the Department of Social Services must provide more social workers in the communities for family counselling as they are unable to carry out effective counselling because of their workloads, that is dealing with welfare, unemployment insurance and other things. More emphasis should go toward suicide counselling, juvenile delinquent conselling and family problems.

2) We further recommend that more press and media coverage should be available to the public on suicide prevention and intervention to promote awareness.

3) Alcohol and drug abuse, and assaults among youth are presently serious problems. However, the blame should not be entirely directed toward us, as we are seeing and hearing about our local territorial and federal leaders being charged with similar crimes. Therefore we recommend that our leaders should be more aware and respectful of their actions as we look up to them as our own role models.

---Applause

Those are the three recommendations we came up with dealing with social issues.

Resolutions From The National Native Alcohol And Drug Abuse Program Conference

Our resolutions from the NNADAP conference are:

1) Whereas the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council is the advisory body to the GNWT and the Government of Canada; and whereas there is no youth representative on the ADCC of the GNWT; be it resolved that a position on the ADCC be created and guaranteed to allow youth representation.

2) Whereas there is no provision for youth representation on many local alcohol and drug program boards; be it resolved that the GNWT, the Government of Canada and the ADCC make provision for youth representation at the local alcohol and drug program board level.

3) Whereas the GNWT presently contributes $1.5 million to alcohol and drug programs within the NWT; and whereas the Government of Canada presently contributes $2.9 million to alcohol and drug programs within the NWT; be it resolved that the GNWT increase or exceed funding to match "dollar for dollar" Government of Canada contributions for all alcohol and drug programs within the NWT.

4) Whereas the GNWT has committed $149,000, for four months effective October 17, 1985, for a youth alcohol and drug program; and whereas only six communities have been piloted; be it resolved that the GNWT initiate expansion and continuation of the youth alcohol and drug program to all communities within the NWT. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next concerns that we would like to address are education and employment which will be addressed by Francis Piugattuk from Igloolik. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Francis.

MR. FRANCIS PIUGATTUK: (Translation) The Youth Forum is very thankful because we are able to present our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. We would like to have your full support. I will be briefly talking about education and employment. (Translation ends)

Recommendations On Education And Employment

1) The high cost of day care is a deterrent for parents with children who wish to upgrade their education and training. We recommend that a separate subsidy above and beyond the training allowance be made available for day care services.

2) We recommend that the grade 12 diploma in the NWT be recognized for employment without having to take the TABE test. I will explain this a little further. When we graduate and we try to find a job, the people where we are looking for jobs always ask us what mark we had on our TABE test. I do not think we need a TABE test because we graduate from a Northwest Territories high school.

3) We recommend that more funding be available for special education for those who drop out of school with learning difficulties, to find their way to adult education programs: a) developing special education programs; b) advertising to promote awareness of these available programs.

4) Because of the lack of familiarization among the students in the communities about the bigger schools in the larger communities, we recommend having a representative from schools travelling through the small communities, giving orientation sessions on the courses available, lifestyles, etc. We live in small communities and we do not know what the bigger communities are like. When we first go to high school, we do not know what is happening around us because the environment is so different. We would like people to come to the communities to tell us what it is about so that we will be prepared for the changes we have to go through.

5) Employment. Due to the lack of employment amongst youth, and due to the lack of appropriate skills in the only jobs available, and due to the lack of economic bases, particularly in smaller communities, we recommend that the government should provide more incentives to northern and southern businesses to create more skilled positions for youth in the communities. Not only to hire them as labourers, but also to train them with the necessary skills to be able to go into the various trades.

These are all the recommendations we have on education and employment.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next concern we have is on education and culture and we would like Jerry Paulette to address it. He is the youth co-ordinator representing Slave River.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Jerry.

Recommendations On Cross-Cultural Education

MR. JERRY PAULETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our meetings that we attended this week, we discussed many issues. Culture of the aboriginal people of the Territories was one of the issues we discussed, culture relating to education. In the present educational system in the NWT, there is a need to implement courses of the aboriginal people's cultural beliefs and values, including history and present struggles; political, economical, cultural and social. The cultural values and struggles are relevant to the young people, to being more understanding and respectful of each other's culture, which will bring the young people together for a good and a united future for all people of the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation one. There is a need for the communities and the newly appointed civil servants and Government of the NWT employees to familiarize themselves with each other. The Youth Forum recommends that the civil servants and the Government of the NWT employees be given a cross-cultural awareness orientation before they resume their duties, and that these cross-cultural orientation programs be established and implemented in all of the communities in the NWT.

Recommendation two. We recommend to the Government of the NWT that the aboriginal people's cultural values and beliefs be implemented in the present school system as an optional course to enhance mutual understanding and respect between the various cultural groups in the NWT.

Cultural Awareness, Observations

1) Identity crisis due to the lack of cultural awareness in native youths.

2) Due to a lack of cultural awareness in the school system in which the culture of Euro-Canadians only is taught, this contributes to the problems of young aboriginal people in the NWT. These are alcoholism, suicide, criminal offences, and family break-up.

3) Native youth recognizes that language is an important link to their cultural beliefs, yet aboriginal languages are not being implemented in most NWT schools.

4) Most teachers are unaware of the aboriginal people's cultural values and beliefs, therefore sections 54 to 59 in the Education Act are not being applied.

I would like to read some sections of the Education Act to you. This was proclaimed and enforced July 1, 1977. Education Act, Part III, Conduct of Schools, Language of Instruction. "Section 57(1): In planning the school program for an education district, the school principals of the district and the superintendent for that district shall be guided by the wishes of the voters of the district as expressed by the local education authority. Section 57(2): The school staff shall utilize aspects of the local cultures in the curriculum, curriculum material and teaching methods of the schools and the principal shall consult with and be guided by the local education authority in planning such utilization. Section 58. The persons responsible for selecting professional and non-professional staff for the education system of the Territories shall endeavour to achieve and maintain in the staff in every education district a representation of ethnic and cultural backgrounds that reflects the ethnic and cultural variations of the population of the district, to the extent that qualified personnel are available." Those are sections 57 and 58 of the Education Act, Part III, which relates to culture.

5) Native youth recognizes that resource people for cultural awareness programs are available in each community, but are not being utilized.

6) The Government of the NWT recognizes the five aboriginal languages, yet they are not guaranteed in the educational system.

7) We, the aboriginal youth of the Territories, realize that we have lost a lot of our cultural values and beliefs due to rapid colonization, therefore cultural awareness programs in the school system will ensure that these cultural values and beliefs are retained.

8) The historical background of North American aboriginal people's part in history-making of this country should be considered and addressed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last person we have is Sabrina Dragon. She will address the House on a plan of action for all these recommendations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sabrina.

MS SABRINA DRAGON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. When our group was first called together, we came to the Legislative Assembly as individuals, for the most part, representing concerns from our communities. What has happened over the last week is we now have a group of people from across the Northwest Territories that have proclaimed that they want to become involved in all aspects of local, regional and territorial government. What we have for you are recommendations that we feel will aid in this process.

Board Appointments

The first one is for the territorial level and it is regarding board appointments. Youth Forum delegates recognized that we are the future of tomorrow and we will be living with the consequences of decisions made today. Therefore, we recommend that provision be made for the appointment of youth to all GNWT boards. When this was first brought up in our group, one of the first questions was, why would I as a 17 or 18 year old want to sit on the Water Board? In answer to that we had Mr. Patrick Simon from Fort Resolution who brought out the Slave River hydro project. This is something where a project may well affect the lives of many of us in the Northwest Territories, especially those in the West, and we feel as a group that we must have the opportunity to be a part of decisions that will affect us in 10, 20, 30 years from now.

Plan Of Action

As a group, we have come up with a plan of action that we feel must be implemented by the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have brought out several recommendations, but if you are unable to follow through with some of those, this is one that we do want followed through. We recommend 1) that an NWT youth secretariat be established. We further recommend 2) that the secretariat's staff consist of one territorial youth co-ordinator, one headquarters support staff and five regional youth officers. The idea that we used to come up with this proposal is along the lines of the regional recreation officers, whereby their mandate in part is to go into the communities and establish community recreation boards and therefore, we further recommend 3) that the mandate of the secretariat be formation of youth councils, clubs, groups, etc., in every community in the Northwest Territories. We further recommend that the mandate of the secretariat be provision of information regarding local, regional, territorial, national and international issues. We further recommend that the mandate of the secretariat be facilitation of workshops concerning youth at the local, regional and territorial level. In addition, the mandate would include transmission of local youth council concerns to the appropriate levels of government. We further recommend 4) that people hired within the secretariat be young northerners involved with concerns of youth. We further recommend 5) that the secretariat become effective as of April 1, 1986. And last, but not least, we further recommend 6) that a review of the NWT youth secretariat mandate take place on a yearly basis.

Request For Resource Person In Each Community

This secretariat is something very dear to the hearts of 50 delegates. We realize that we were chosen by our MLAs for many different reasons and we are not necessarily representing the concerns of people in our communities. Not every community in the Northwest Territories is represented. So, what we are asking for is the opportunity to have a resource person available to us in order that we may establish councils or clubs -- we have not been able to decide exactly what we want to call them -- but youth groups in all of our communities. One of the things that we discussed was how, as a youth group, we could begin networking in our communities. At this time, there are many youth in all the communities. It has been brought to our attention with stats and what we are asking is that we have the opportunity to begin to realize our potential. Many of us know of many people in our communities who are very interested in health issues, very interested in many social concerns, recreation, education and when we asked for these regional youth officers, we are asking for someone to help the people in our communities realize their potential. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the recommendations that are brought forward until now; the ones that we brought together this week. There are just in this room some 50 of us young people and we have a possibility of having at least 50 different problems and concerns just between us in this room. Unfortunately, we are only a small percentage of all the young people in the Northwest Territories. Therefore, we cannot possibly attempt to address all the problems and concerns in a short period of a week. We are fortunate, however, that we have each other in this room who we can depend on, to develop and implement our own way of solutions to these problems in our own communities. However, we cannot do this alone. We need the hand of our leaders who are sitting right in this room. In the next few years, some of us may be sitting in your chairs making the decisions that affect your lives. We would like to follow your footsteps and bring our fellow youth in the NWT with us along the way. Please give us a chance. Tremendous work obviously has gone into bringing us together and we greatly appreciate the spotlight that is being shone upon us with the designation of International Year of Youth, but please remember that when the spotlight has been removed and when we are back in our communities and when the year 1985 has gone by, we are still struggling in our own communities with the same concerns and problems as we did this week, unless the recommendations that have been put forward today are heard and acted upon.

Commitment To Stand By Recommendations

In conclusion, on behalf of all the youth delegates, I would like to say that we feel committed to stand by these recommendations to ensure that these concerns are carried out in the immediate future. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. The floor is now open if the Members wish to ask the witnesses questions or make general comments. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to compliment all the young people on an excellent presentation and a very thoughtful presentation. I know that they have worked hard in the very short time that was allotted to them and the report that they have produced and presented to this Assembly will live many years. It will not be taken lightly and we will examine it and respond however and as we can. I also congratulate the Minister, Mr. McLaughlin, for putting this very worth-while program together and allowing us to have the wisdom and insight and foresight of the young people of the North.

I just have a bit of a comment with regard to the direction of some of the suggestions and recommendations. Somehow the federal Minister escaped a lot of these tasks...

---Laughter

...I would have. I hope that she too will be able to pick up some of the burden with us and assist us in attempting to achieve these very worth-while goals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) Thank you very much. I am very pleased that we have the young people here with us today. We have toured together to the best of our ability. They themselves know by living in their particular communities what they need and what they want. Those of us sitting here as MLAs have to give them their chance to speak and listen to what they have to say. We have this honourable Minister Champagne from Ottawa listening to them.

There is so much drinking and drugs in the various communities that we are having a lot of problems. A lot of our young people, young girls and boys, are losing their lives because of this problem. This is why I am very pleased to have the youth in our presence today.

In the future it will be a good thing I believe if the young come and sit with us in the Assembly like this and speak their minds about what they think is good for the various communities. When we were growing up and going to school we never really had the opportunity that the youth have today because we were not allowed to speak our minds on what we felt was good for us. No matter what happens if you try your best you will always manage. When we were growing up we were very poor. We listened to our relatives and we always tried to listen to whatever was told to us by our elders. That is why I am sitting here today. When I was a child and my mother was sending me to school I hated to go to school. Although I did not want to I was sent to school and I am not sorry for it. So I can be sitting here like this today. You have a better chance for an education and I am sure that in the future you can accomplish this and much more. That is all I have to say, and I am very pleased that I was given this opportunity to speak and I hope that this will happen again. Thank you very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Commitment Of This Group Is Fantastic

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to add my congratulations to the representatives of the youth delegates. I too feel it was an excellent presentation and I think we should be proud of our young people. Very recently in this Assembly we spoke about the education system and some of the shortcomings that some of us saw in it. I think on the positive side, the government and Members of the Assembly should be proud that our education system is producing the

young people who have spoken today. Quite often the Minister of Education bears the brunt of some criticism of our education system. This is a day when he should be proud of what our schools are turning out in the NWT.

I think it is significant that these representatives did not hesitate to hit the key issues, did not hold back. It is important for us that we know what problems are important to the young people and I hope that we do provide a way, Mr. Chairman, to keep the momentum going. I think for me the most important thing that was stated this morning was that this group of people want to stay involved. For me that is very significant and I think we have a tremendous resource here, these 50 young people as a nucleus of, I know, a much larger group of young people in the North. I think the commitment that you have expressed this morning is fantastic. I for one will support your main recommendation, if I can call it that, that there be some sort of a support secretariat established to assist you in staying together with this commitment so that we as an Assembly and perhaps a government, can take advantage or full advantage of this commitment that you have made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a short comment. I am very pleased that the youth are here. Being parents ourselves we are very concerned about our kids. I welcome your comments very much and I understand them and I would like to support them.

I would like you to know that we all can't have what we want through the government, although we would like to give you what you want through support for your suggestions. Whenever you have concerns I would like you to voice your concerns to your community representatives or community councils and say that you want help and need help. I agree with what you want and I want to support you. My constituency needs all the help that they can get, especially in the area of suicide. I am very glad that you are trying to help us by asking for our help. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Moses Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a lot to say. Thank you very much to the youth delegates in voicing their concerns. I did not think that they would make that much sense in their comments or their concerns. I understand that even though they are not voted into this Assembly they should still have the opportunity to voice their concerns. I think they should be sitting in my seat. I just want you to know how I feel. In some of the communities the youth are very mixed up and confused. Their day is the night and their night is the day and they do not know about their future. They are very concerned, very confused. How can we help the youth to begin their future? How are we going to look after our kids if they sleep during the day and are out during the night? Because of voicing their concerns in this House I am sure that our seats will be taken by these young people today who are sitting in this Assembly. I would be very happy to support all their recommendations and their suggestions but right now we do not have much money to help them out and we will be looking for more funding through our government. It seems as if there are some funds somewhere to try to help you with. It is really hard sometimes to work toward these goals that we want to achieve in the future. I would like to support you and your concerns expressed for our future and for your future. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Concerns Expressed Personally Are Helpful

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome all the youth who are here in this Assembly and also the Minister, Andrée Champagne. I am very happy to hear her opening remarks so we know there is support all over Canada for the youth. It is going to be very helpful and also meaningful to all the people in Canada. I would like to see her visit our Eastern Arctic area sometime in the future. I want to invite her to your community.

It was very helpful to hear all your concerns and all your recommendations. There are times when we try to express our concerns about the youth and we do not get that much help. It has been very useful now for us and for yourselves that you could express your own concerns personally to us. We

will be supporting you and also will be trying to answer all your concerns about employment, about education. I was very happy when you spoke about them and also that a leader in the community should be recognized as an example. I am very, very happy that we should be a leader to our people that we are representing and also to work with the young people toward leadership. Thank you. I will speak in English for a while. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, I am really honoured to take part in this exercise and to see all the young people from across the Northwest Territories, particularly, as I said, to have such an important federal Minister, who, I think, is a star of the young generation as well as representing the interests of the young people across the country. I congratulate you and I certainly admire your role. I think I can say you have a tremendous number of fans across the country and I am sure you are going to develop quite a few in the Northwest Territories. I do now feel much stronger in my belief that the young people across the country are well represented in Parliament and I wish you well in your job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

Government Response To Pressure From Groups

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: We have attempted to, from time to time, bring these issues out but for some reason or the other we have never seemed to succeed in getting the message across. Because you can do it better than we can, I am encouraging you to carry on when you get back. You meet with us, you organize meetings for us and we will listen like we are listening here. Politicians do not always have time to organize events in our constituencies because we have so many different interest groups that want to meet with us. I am sure that when you get back you will talk to your friends and try to organize a meeting once in a while to see whether or not the latest recommendations or concerns that you have raised have been followed up or not. That is a way of getting some results because the more pressure that is put on us the more the government will respond. I know our Leader here, Richard Nerysoo knows very well that the more pressure some groups put on us, the more the government normally reacts.

I am wishing you all the best and I am looking forward to the day that you will have a regular presentation in the Legislature of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The only question I have is, as we in this Assembly have tended to have quite a lot of difficulty throughout the past history, do you have any kind of advice as to how we can work together better in the Northwest Territories rather than having confrontations once in a while? How can we always have friendly confrontations? That was the one piece of advice that I wanted to hear from you. How would you suggest the politician's role could be improved? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I understand the youth witnesses before us would like to respond after hearing the comments from the Members of the committee. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few general comments to make but then maybe I'll ask a couple of the questions at the end of the comments from MLAs. I would be interested to hear some responses from the delegates here or perhaps from some of the other delegates.

First of all, I would like to thank the federal Minister, Mme. Champagne, for being with us. I was fortunate this morning to have some conversation with the federal Minister and I am hopeful that there is enough flexibility in federal programs that if we in the North come up with some imaginative innovative youth programs, they can fit into the federal programs. I found the federal Minister very sympathetic and very open to any suggestions that we might make. I for one really appreciate that interest and that flexibility.

Secondly, I was very impressed that youths from all over the Territories could come together and in a very short time come up with some well thought out, well defined, well put together proposals; that 48 or 50 individuals, within two days, could become a cohesive group. I think we as an Assembly probably have something to learn from you. For one I was very impressed with what happened here because it was very, very difficult. I find it very mature.

The concept of a youth secretariat and the other recommendations of the Youth Forum, I think we as an Assembly and the Executive must look at very, very seriously. I think there is a lot of merit to the idea of getting youth involved. The message coming from this Youth Forum is loud and clear to me, that the youth form a majority in the NWT, that the decisions that we make as MLAs affect them now and will affect their lives for years and decades to come and they want some input into decisions we make.

Input Involves Commitment To Responsibility

I would like to add with that input comes responsibility. What I think and I hope I am hearing from the youth is they are prepared to make a commitment. They are prepared to have that input but also that responsibility; an understanding that government cannot solve all the problems.

---Applause

So, I would like to see the momentum kept up. I would like to see youth get more and more involved.

Maybe if it is possible at the end of all the talks of the MLAs we could hear some more specific ideas, some more personal ideas that some of the youth have of ways they could get involved. What we have here is some general frameworks but I am sure there were many discussions to arrive at those general frameworks. I would like to hear from some of the youth why they think that there should be a secretariat. How should a secretariat be set up? How do you decide for instance, where in a region should the secretariat member be? What would the actual involvement of the secretariat be? Where do you see the youth interacting with this secretariat? I would be interested and maybe if we could flesh out the idea a little bit more. Mr. Chairman, I will end it in that. I was very, very impressed with what I saw come out of the last three days. I see a real commitment from the youth of the Territories to get involved and I for one think as an MLA in this Assembly we should do everything we can to encourage that commitment. Thank you very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sabrina.

MS SABRINA DRAGON: Mr. Ballantyne, with regard to discussing the specifics of the secretariat, Sandy earlier said that we have a representative of the group that is willing to follow up all of our recommendations. We do have a committee in place that will be available to meet with any of the officials involved with the formation of the secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

Committee For Liaison Should Be In Place

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister and the youth group, it is a pleasure again to speak to you. The point that I would like to leave with you today was almost answered. I think it was answered just a moment ago. We have gone to the extent of gathering 40 to 50 young people here and I believe that prior to your leaving, you should have a committee struck that would be a liaison group to work with the government so that we have something in place. I have seen too often where presentations of this nature are made without having somebody specified to carry on the good work with the government and everything kind of disappears down the road. So I would like to see some sort of a commitment here by yourselves and by the MLAs that a committee be struck to continue open dialogue with the government so that we can do something about the problems that are real and do need our attention very, very badly. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just briefly echo the sentiments of the other MLAs and say that I was extremely impressed with the way you worked so hard in such a short time. I am impressed with the way that everyone I have talked to from the Youth Forum has said exactly what they think. I think sometimes politicians should do that more often. I noticed you have not hesitated to make frank recommendations on delicate subjects such as "custom adoption". You had the courage to tell us politicians that we should maybe set a little bit of a

better example on occasion. I just got a note saying "We don't want to be praised. We want you to ask us some good questions." I really appreciate that open approach that you have taken and I will have a few questions in a moment.

I would just like to generally comment on one matter, though, in respect of education. I am very pleased to see the emphasis on education. I would like to say generally that the recommendations are very much consistent with what I believe are the challenges ahead of us in northern education.

Mr. Chairman, I am wondering about a couple of things. I was impressed with your recommendation that you young people should be appointed to government boards. I think that we as a government can do something about that and should do something about that. I think all too often people in the North are asking the government for handouts and I was impressed that you want a little help so that you can help yourselves. That was a theme that I heard throughout the week and I think it is something more people should consider and sometimes I think that people we appoint to boards are a bit too concerned about the honorariums that they get or the size of the honorarium. Perhaps, in some cases, not as concerned about the reason they were put on a board. I am confident that young people, as you recommend, could make a real contribution to some of these many boards that we have.

Control Through The Political Process

One question that I would like to ask though, is did you talk about getting involved in politics? Now, in a few days we have nominations opening up for local government elections and for local education authority elections. I would just want to say, whether you are appointed to boards or not, you have 60 per cent of the population 25 and under, so you have a really good opportunity to start to take some control through the political process. I am just wondering if that subject came up and whether or not we are going to see more young people standing for public office, because if you get organized, you can take over very quickly. So that is one question.

The second question I would like to ask -- I noted your comments on alcohol and drug abuse and the need to provide more support for that. I am going to be honest with you people this time. One thing that really struck me, I guess particularly last night at the banquet, was how many young people smoke and how many people are dying of lung cancer and other forms of cancer related to smoking in the NWT. So I want to ask you this: Did you discuss tobacco as a drug? When you are talking about support for alcohol and drug abuse, are you including tobacco as a dangerous drug, dangerous to health, as well as alcohol and other non-medical drugs? So those are my two questions, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to again say thank you very much to the people who represented my constituency and all of you. I think you have done an excellent job and you have started something -- I am not sure where it is going to go but it is going to change our whole outlook on things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the youth here to the Legislative Assembly and also Andrée Champagne, the Minister of State for Youth. I think this is the first youth conference with this many youth here in the Legislative Assembly. I am very glad about your recommendations and your comments to the Legislative Assembly. It is good to hear what the youth think about the Legislative Assembly and telling us what to think about. I stated earlier that our decisions that we make today will be followed by the young people in the future. For example, if we make a decision, even if it is not appropriate, they will have no choice but to follow the decision that we already agreed upon. So we have to work hard to try and come up with the proper decisions to agree upon today.

I want to briefly talk about the problems in the smaller communities, that you people also discussed. I know there are a lot of problems in the smaller communities. The concerns that you brought up are today's concerns. Before the communities were formed, the people used to have outpost camps. As communities formed, the children started going to school and were exposed to a completely different way of life.

They have not really adjusted to that different way of life up to today. When they were introducing grades nine to 12 in Frobisher Bay in the early 70s, when grade 12 was first offered, I was asked to make a presentation. I would like to go back to that presentation that I did at that time. We had heard on the CBC that the young people were not worth too much now and they were not doing too much for themselves. The older people were putting the young people down on the CBC. Those of us who are older do not have an education; we more or less learned from our parents. They taught us discipline and tney taught us -- for example, I could look at the ice and see how dangerous it is, and I do not have to be told that it is dangerous. But today's young people are not able to do that. It is more like they have the southern lifestyle now. Even though there is very thin ice, they could just go ahead and ride on thin ice, they would not know the difference. This does not mean that they are dumb and not as intelligent as we are as adults.

Education Has Introduced Another Lifestyle

As I said earlier, it seems like today's young people have this other lifestyle because education was introduced and the parents and kids were further apart than earlier times. The parents started telling their children that they were doing wrong. The young people were talking back to their parents in English even though their parents did not understand them. They had a lot of other concerns or problems. As we all know today we are trying to encourage the young people to go to university but I think we have to remember that the Inuit traditional way of living, of hunting, will always be here in the North. I think it is as important.

So because of these concerns I am talking about, I think we have to work closely together because the young people will be taking our place in the future. As someone stated earlier, we cannot really plan for you. We do not know what you want, we do not know if we are doing the right thing. So the young people will have to bring up their concerns in the communities and work hard on the problems that they face today.

Some of the communities do not have a leader. In some of the communities there is really no leader. I just want to tell the young people that no one is going to come up to you and say that you are elected as a leader for your community. So you have to try and work toward being a leader yourself. It has to come from you. If a young person is not interested in becoming a leader, I do not think you will ever have the type of leader that you have been wanting. If you will not look into becoming a leader yourself, as you are getting older you will never really grow up. So you have to try and help yourselves. Those are the concerns that I wanted to bring up to the young people. I will be in support of this earlier recommendation that they wanted a representative in the government. They have to have a youth co-ordinator. I will be in support of your recommendations. I am not sure if you are going to be able to come up with all the answers that you requested but you know there are ordinary MLAs that could help you. They could be of great help to you. I would like to say good luck to the young people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. I understand the youth representatives would like to respond to some of the areas that were raised by some of the Members. Also when you do speak would you turn your receiver down. Sam.

MR. SAM QAVVIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to answer Mr. Curley's question. We suggest that you make a good working effort to be a better person for a better future. We put aside individual concerns and thought about our future as one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Francis.

MR. FRANCIS PIUGATTUK: (Translation) I will be answering the Minister of Education regarding how we can be more involved in the government in the communities, in the hamlet education committee and alcohol committee in the communities. Maybe if we were on these committees we would represent the youth's concerns in the regions too. We cannot just sit around and think that we would like to be elected to this committee, we have to get up and say we will be on the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Paulette.

MR. JERRY PAULETTE: I would like to respond to Mr. Patterson's statement on tobacco as relating to alcohol and drug abuse. When we say drugs, we understand that tobacco is a drug as well but it does not affect people as alcohol does. Alcohol affects the mind, emotions, body, the spirituality of every individual. Tobacco does not affect your emotions, spirituality and your mind. Alcohol

has caused many problems; a lot of deaths are related to alcohol. Tobacco does not cause family break-up, tobacco does not cause suicide. Those are a few examples. But we understand that tobacco is a drug and we feel that alcoholism and drug abuse is a bigger issue of concern for us than tobacco. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Does anybody else want to respond? Okay, we will go to Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to apologize that there is no representative from my constituency because of the weather. Although they are not here I want you to know that I will let them know what you have done here. I want you to know that the young people will be sent all the things that they have talked about. First of all I want to thank the youth for coming here. The youth concerns have been around for a long time and I am glad they can show their concerns. Some are very big concerns.

Member Combines Two Lifestyles

Myself I feel like I have two lifestyles. I know I have two lifestyles. The first one is my parents' lifestyle and I also can have the youth's lifestyle too. I understand these two lifestyles and I have to follow these two lifestyles and I have to stand up to following these two lifestyles. Because of this I have a very hard lifestyle. I want the youth to understand that I also have to follow my parents' lifestyle. The young people are not the only ones with hard times. Adults are finding them hard too, even down to the older people. They, like everyone, would like everybody to be happy and they would like to be happy with one another. I would like to tell the young people that we are not forgetting you. We would like to help you as much as we can. We have to concentrate on assisting the older people too, because we cannot concentrate only on the concerns of youth. There will always be problems for all ages.

Last night when we had the banquet I think I had the youngest person, who was only three years old, with me. I wanted him to go up to the mike and speak but he was getting very restless. I think he will remember what happened last night. I am not sure if he will want to be involved in the youth groups or I am not sure if he will want to be a hunter when he is a young person.

I was young like you once. I did not plan to hold a certain occupation. When I was younger I used to look at the worst side of things. I did not look at the bright side. I should not have been that way. I should have been looking at the brighter side of living. I would like to thank the young people for being here with us and I will speak very briefly in English if I may. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, there are some recommendations on education and also employment for the youths. I hope the Minister of Education of the NWT realizes that these should be considered, about higher education or graduation of young people. I was asking questions on Friday about what would happen if I graduated in Frobisher Bay and I am not qualified for college. Those young people are proud of themselves, to be graduates. What does "graduate" mean in the North -- is it just to make them happy? Also there is a recommendation there on page 11, employment and youth, recommendation 9. There are no jobs for them in the wintertime because of their lack of skills. This is no excuse. I had better not say more because -- also I want the needs of the youth and also of the adults to be recognized by the present federal government. Especially by Andree Champagne who is here right now. If the present government right now -- it will not happen. We have been fighting for this for a long time. When the PC government took over -- it is almost a year now, for them to see the people's problems. I am glad that Tagak Curley was saying -- I think he was more happy about this present government, because he said something about it a little while ago.

---Laughter

I think the people should realize that the present federal government now is more concerned about the people instead of activities. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We have a number of speakers coming up. I understand that after the Members have had a chance to comment and question the witnesses that the Hon. Andree Champagne will want to make a statement to the youth, in regard to your presentation. Sabrina, did you want to comment?

MS SABRINA DRAGON: We, as the representatives of the delegation, would appreciate it very much if the questions that are addressed to us are specific to the presentation that we have offered you today. In the last week we had the opportunity and you had the opportunity to come down as individuals to speak with us and tell us how you feel personally about youth in general. We would really appreciate it if we could speak specifically about our presentation this morning. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we just got rapped on the knuckles for being politicians.

---Laughter

Actually I had two questions which are very specific to the recommendations. I think, first of all, I would like to know why the delegates feel that it is necessary to set up a youth secretariat. Why, for example, could not some of the things you want to do be handled by the various government departments that are already in place? That is my first question. Secondly, from reading through the recommendations very quickly, there appears to be the suggestion from some of the recommendations that the education system that we have is not particularly relevant to the youth of the Northwest Territories inasmuch as it does not seem to be providing them with the tools and skills necessary to do anything with when they leave school. There also appears to be a suggestion that perhaps the education system we have is too easy and that things you are learning in school you are not being taught properly. I would just like to get that reaction from you because not so long ago in this House, a few days ago, we had a debate on compulsory education and once again, as a government, we are reacting to the end result of a problem and we are not addressing the real problem as to why it was necessary for us to bring in compulsory education because we have an 85 per cent drop-out rate by grade eight. So I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sabrina.

Role Of Secretariat

MS SABRINA DRAGON: I will respond to your question regarding the secretariat. One of the basic ideas that came forward regarding the secretariat is that we know of many people out there in our communities, we know of people who are our age who have all kinds of potential as far as networking within their community. The problem that we face in our communities is the lack of information regarding specific concerns of youth. Information is not being passed either from the communities to the government or from the government to the communities. What we are saying is that all of us have common concerns as youth but as individual members of communities we have very specific concerns within our community and that is where we want to start addressing the problems. We realize that we are very fortunate that this week we have been able to address territorial concerns but we feel that it is more important and more relevant for us at this time to begin addressing problems and concerns at home. If we can establish the community youth council network then possibly as regions or as youth of the Territories we may be able to bring you concerns as a total group. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

Educational Standards Should Be Upheld Across The NWT

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to answer the question that Mr. Wray asked about the education system in the North. I do not think that we think the education system in the North is inadequate. That was not our idea. However, it is not standardized all over the North.

The standards are set and probably in the big communities such as Yellowknife and Hay River or Fort Smith they are being carried out but it is not so in the small communities. We have had a lot of complaints from the people from the small communities saying that when they graduate, when they go up to grades nine or 10, when they have to move to bigger cities, bigger schools, they find that what they have taken in their small communities is not comparable to the bigger schools and not only do they have to live with the fact that they have to be away from home and their families but they also have to live with the inadequacy in their level of education. We have written down in one of the observations that perhaps a compulsory exam be written, similar to departmental exams for the students who want to further their education in Alberta or the rest of Canada. I think that it is very important for all the youth in the Northwest Territories, specifically the students, to have a chance where they could evaluate themselves to see how far on they are and I do not think that they should be allowed to move on unless they are absolutely ready to take on the extra and the higher level of education. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Just a comment that I cannot resist. The delegates have just confirmed what many of us have been saying for years about our education system, that the youth want a good education system and they want a very strong academic education so that they can take advantage of the job opportunities that we have and that is what I wanted to hear. Thank you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to recognize in this House the young people and I would like to say thank you to the Minister for the Youth Forum. I would like to say thank you very much for getting the youth over here and into this House. I believe my responsibility in my area is to help the Inuit people as an MLA and I am trying to help the youth. My daughter is right here right now as a representative of my constituency. I am happy to be an MLA and also I want them to recognize me and also my daughter who is working hard toward this, to communicate with the young people regarding their problems. In my constituency there is the problem even in the small communities, that there is a lot of glue sniffing and other kind of solvent sniffing instead of drugs or alcohol and this is one of a lot of problems involved in the community. I am very happy that these young people will be working on these problems. There are times that deaths have occurred in my community involving glue sniffing or other kinds of solutions. I am aware that there are some measures under the Liquor Act that could be followed but there is no act regarding other solvents or sniffing. As an MLA if I break the laws, the liquor law, I do not think I will be sitting here any longer. I just want the young people to know the problem of sniffing other solvents and I want the young people to work harder to find more solutions. I cannot really say that young people are good for nothing up to now. When I myself was a young person, at that time a lot of older people used to say that the young people were good for nothing. At that time I could not help any other young people because of this, that our elders were criticizing us a lot. But at this time the young people could solve their problems more than we did before and also they are starting to get representatives from the other settlements who can work together.

The last thing, about the education that has been raising problems for us. I guess the Minister of Education heard this and I believe that he is going to be working harder toward the education problems and the young people could represent the other people from the community regarding the problems that are arising in schools.

I just want to welcome all the youth, here, who are sitting in this Assembly and also I can see all the different people, Inuit, Dene and white people, who are sitting in this Assembly. We know that now they are starting to work harder together. In the past, there were white people who started coming into our communities and started changing our lives. And we people who did not go to school before, we could not set up any kind of thing so that we could keep our rights and we were losing them. We know now that this thing has taken place, that the younger people will keep their rights and have the power to have their own. Also, I am sure that some of you young people will be picking up our seats in this Assembly, with more power than we have right now, because you have a lot of potential. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not under the illusion that I was one of those who raised a little confusion in the mind of the Hon. Andrée Champagne as to who were the Members of the Assembly and who were the youth delegates.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: Hear youth.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I am one of the older Members. But even those of us who are older, were young once. Even I and Mr. Speaker were young at one time.

---Laughter

I am just going to say, I can remember. I remember when we were young, how desperately we want our communities and our country and the world to be a better place to live in. But, I remember too, how as you get a little older you become disillusioned, maybe jaded and crusty, and get settled into patterned thinking and following along with the usual way of doing things. So today is a very special occasion. Having youth delegates here is a little bit for us -- or for me anyway -- like getting a blood transfusion. It is very nice to encounter again youthful ability and youthful idealism and enthusiasm.

All Ages Should Contribute To Society

I do not really like to divide society into youth and old age and that sort of thing. I like to think that we are all part of one people. Infants, children, adolescents, young men and women, middle-aged and old people. Those who are fortunate pass through all those phases in life and while we are doing that we are always just what we are -- people; and in this case part of the people of the Northwest Territories. And I like to think that in a society, there should be a situation where society expects, and that everyone including young people accepts the idea, that whoever lives in a society and benefits from that society, has some obligation to contribute to it, to try to make it a better place to live. We all have the right, I think, and we all have the responsibility to do things each at his own level that make our lives better. And for the very young, certainly that can extend to things like visiting the elderly and helping the elderly. It can extend to things like avoiding vandalism and discouraging other people from vandalism. It can involve things like helping in community projects.

In every society there are also particular roles, decision-making roles. And it seems that in our society as in others, that an assumption is made, and perhaps it is an invalid assumption, that those who tend to be at the younger end of the scale are just not yet well enough informed or their judgment is not mature enough to offer them the opportunity to participate in decision-making roles. Clearly, in the case of infants and children, that is so. But we are faced with a group of young people who are saying that they are ready for heavier responsibilities and are ready for decision-making roles in our society.

---Applause

And I think that as legislators we do have the obligation to ensure that there are no artificial and arbitrary barriers that prevent people who have ability and the interest and commitment from participating. To the extent that we have the opportunity to change things like that, I can say certainly that I am committed to trying to make sure that there are not artificial barriers, that it is not just assumed that a young man or woman could not play a useful role participating on the Water Board, for example. And, if we have barriers that prevent that automatically, whether they are legal or merely in the way of mental prejudices, then we have to try to remove them, and I am committed to helping to try to remove them.

Of course, from that point on, then it is up to the young people themselves to show that there is interest and ability and commitment and to begin to take advantage of the opportunities that are available for making this a better society. I think, just concluding that part of it, I would say from the young people that I have met over the past few days, that there is a great hope in me, that we have young people who can indeed make a significant contribution to making this a better society.

Implementation Of Sections 54 To 59 Of Education Act

One question that I have, in a way is directed toward Jerry Paulette. He mentioned that sections 54 to 59 of the Education Act are not being implemented, and always in politics -- and if some of you are becoming involved, you will soon find that out -- it is not always enough just to say that something ought to be. It is not just enough to just desire that something should be, but you have to address the reasons as to why it is not that way now, and how it can be made different, given the resources and the circumstances that prevail at the time. So, in your address, Jerry, you did not say whether delegates discussed why they thought that was not being implemented. Is it a lack of will, is it a lack of money, is it a lack of understanding, or is it just awareness that there is supposed to be sections that deal with aboriginal culture in the education system?

The reason that I ask that is, I have been told that the education board of Education District No. 4, that is the board that is responsible for Sir John Franklin High School, has in the past attempted to introduce aboriginal language courses in the school. Now, that is what I have been told, and I have also been told that this has not occurred because there were not people who came forward to say that they would be willing to teach the courses. They could not get anybody to do it. Now, whether it was because they were not offering an adequate salary or whether it was because the job would entail, not only teaching the course but developing materials at the same time, I do not know. But, it has not happened and I agree with you that it should happen, so can you tell me a little bit more about why you think that it is not happening, and what could maybe be done to make sure that it does happen? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Jerry.

MR. JERRY PAULETTE: To what Mr. MacQuarrie has just spoken about, as to why the sections have not been applied, I think that the answer is pretty simple. It has been ignored, it is as simple as that. The youth delegates have discussed the issue, and they do want this cultural awareness to be applied into the educational system, cross-cultural awareness in every aspect that the territorial people deal with. It is as simple as that, it has been ignored, and I think that it is very important that all the people in the Territories understand each other's culture and if Euro-Canadians go to the school system they learn their system. They learn their history and their thoughts and their ways of learning, but they do not learn ours. Is that wrong or is that right? From the youth perspective that is wrong. If we people are going to work together in the future, we have to understand each other's culture and respect it with feeling and with love for a more united future and people as one. That is why we talked about culture and education. The majority of the people in the NWT are aboriginal people. A lot of the cultural values and beliefs are not taught in the school system and we feel that it is inadequate for all people to just learn one system. We feel that we should learn all systems -- all cultural beliefs and values. The answer is simply that it has not been recognized and is simply being ignored. That is all I can say.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I would just like to remind Members that the youth witnesses would like Members to react to their presentation. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to say that we as politicians think that we have all the answers. For youth problems we also have to say that the expertise is with the youth themselves and that it is based on their consultation, their discussion and their direction that we will possibly be able to address some of the issues that do affect their very lives.

I do not know if other Members have been consulting their youth but I have two people from my constituency sitting behind me. As the discussion has been going on here in this House I have been referring to their advice and to their comments in order to address some of the issues that were presented by the members. One of the things I believe the youth are saying is that they would like to have some kind of a forum, a department that deals with some of the issues that do affect the youth. I would like to say that I totally agree with that. I know that some of the Ministers are saying that maybe there is not enough money to deal with all the problems of the youth. Certainly some of the education programs in the school right now -- I do not know whether they are effective to your needs. What possibly may be done is diverting that money to other issues that are more crucial to your aspirations. I do not know.

Education And Career Choice

For example I can only use some of my own experiences as well as some of the experiences of the youth that are from my school and a good look at the high drop-out rate of youths in the school program, the education system, and also how we come to have a high rate of unemployment, high rate of suicide. One thing I can say is that in order to survive, like go from grade nine to grade 12 to college or to university, there are two important subject matters that you have to take in order to take on any kind of career and these are physics and science. I know for example that in a lot of the schools, because it is such a demanding curriculum that is geared more toward the people that they feel are going to be able to accomplish or successfully complete those two subject matters, a lot of times the native people are the ones who are told to take different subjects rather than those two really crucial subjects. If you take those two courses you will be able to take any kind of career that you want to. You are not restricted only to maybe truck drivers or welders or carpenters. I thought maybe I would let you know that because I have the experience because I did not take those two subjects. When it came time for me to select a career I was restricted to certain careers that I could take.

I know that like an alcoholic would probably know best what the problems are and how to deal with it, I would have to say that regarding the issues of the youth, you are the experts on it. I would always refer to your expertise on these matters. A lot of times we figure that the politicians are the ones that know best how to deal with your problems and how to resolve them. I believe a lot of times there are a lot of deficiencies in the education system, social system, in the work place and we do not have all the answers. Certainly the expertise for youths is with you people. I would certainly utilize your expertise to address some of the issues that you have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to address a few issues that have been talked about. First of all, with Mr. MacQuarrie's speech on having barriers, please be advised that when we went through this and made the recommendations and observations, we knew and we were expecting to run into all kinds of barriers. I think we are young enough to expect a lot of things but we are old enough to know that we can't get everything we want.

It was interesting to see that we made all these recommendations and observations and several Members of the Legislative Assembly pointed out that there was lack of funds. We will just look at that as one of the barriers that we can break through. I am sure that we expect that. When and if the secretariat is formed, we realize the responsibility that we have in all communities to work harder in order to take advantage of that. I think we could have listed out 100 pages and 100 recommendations of all the things that we could ever want as youths in the NWT. That is not what we wanted. We know what we want and we would like to do it on our own but we cannot do that as small grass roots. We are asking for a group or a department and a few permanently employed employees who can help us do that on our own.

---Applause

As a last note, I would like to say on behalf of the groups that we honestly and truly know the responsibility that we have to take on ourselves in order to see this through. We sincerely hope that you will look at this discussion this morning as an opportunity to set up something through which you can reach us and allow us to be an advisory board in all the policies and regulations you make that affect our lives. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I would just like to advise the Members that we are under somewhat of a time constraint unless some changes are made. We do have two other speakers and after that we will hear from the federal Minister of Youth. Ms Cournoyea.

Problems Of Students In Residences

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question. It appears that in the presentation certain things were touched on. I noticed that there was some mention of the student residence but I would like to ask the question, was there any discussion on the problem that seems

to be plaguing us where, although students have no difficulty in the academic school or the grades that they are trying to achieve, we do have an immediate problem where many of the students are going to residential dwellings to take their education. Did you have a discussion on how we could almost immediately try to prevent this drop out from residence, for the students who find it very difficult to stay in residence? Was that discussion part of your seminar and did you come up with any suggestions that we could use? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Who would like to respond to that? Francis.

MR. FRANCIS PIUGATTUK: Talking about education, we sort of covered all topics and one of the recommendations we made was the orientation idea about people going to these communities. That was part of that. Another thing, right now in Ukkivik, they have a counsellor who is in the residence and they say that this helps a lot. If we get counsellors in the residences -- I was a product of the Ukkivik residence and if we had had a counsellor in the Ukkivik residence it would have helped us a lot because most of our classmates were drop-outs by the time some of us graduated. Yes, we talked about that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to congratulate the young people and the people that they chose to make their presentation. I do not want to give my congratulations on the basis of just wanting to hear from you and leave it at that, because I think that you have shown what I consider to be leadership that I sometimes think is required in this Legislature and that is the ability to set aside personal differences and make a presentation of a collective, united position. I think that at times that type of leadership is required to respond to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories and I thank you very much for that presentation.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I would like to call on -- Mr. Nerysoo, I am sorry.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you. I hope you do not want to cut off the youngest Member of the Legislature.

AN HON. MEMBER: Just by two months.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: But, I also want to say to you that I certainly appreciated the opportunity to speak to you young people as well. I thank you and it was an honour for me to make a presentation. I do hope that some of the ideas and some of the things I did say will inspire some of you young people to become leaders, not only in public life but in private life as well. I do not think you should limit yourself to the idea of being political leaders because I think some of you will become very good leaders in the business world and I think that you should pursue that. I wish also to say to you that your presentation while it dealt with one specific issue of the secretariat -- and I had the opportunity to speak about that particular issue and I really feel that it is a legitimate request on the part of the young people -- in your presentation you stayed away from the idea of asking for a lot of money to deal only with the question of youth. You have also asked for the government to deal with issues that are generally applicable to the people of the Northwest Territories; improvement in the drug and alcohol programs for all people, improvement for the educational system, for all people, and the question of dealing with employment I think is important because it does not only apply to young people, that it was necessary for government to respond positively, creating measures that would encourage employment of northern people in the Northwest Territories, whether it apply to resource development or whether it apply to the question of improvement in government of further employment initiatives that we would employ our graduates or people of the North. And I think that that is commendable.

Further Communication And Follow-Up

Just a couple of things I also wanted to say, a couple of questions. Firstly, did you as a group consider the possibility of utilizing government services to inform the people of the Northwest Territories but more generally young people? And I refer to the use of the Department of Information and the services that they provide and other government services.

The other question is, did you consider the possibility of a follow-up forum to review what has happened with regard to your recommendations and the further direction that you might give to government in future? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Who would like to respond to those two questions? Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to reply to Mr. Nerysoo's question. We appreciate his taking his time to come down to tell us about the services available through the Department of Information and if we wanted to exchange correspondence with regard to this session and this week's events. We have talked about and we are most certainly going to use that opportunity to further communicate with each other about what is going to happen from now on. Because we all know that this is just the start of a big thing. Another thing is, that most of us are going to be here today and tonight and we are going to make sure that those of us who are near this headquarters of Yellowknife, are going to get together to see this thing through and we will be coming back to you. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Just for the information of the youth witnesses, we have started out with one of the oldest serving Members of this chamber, which is Mr. Tom Butters. He is one of our elders.

---Laughter

And now we are concluding with the youngest Member, Mr. Nerysoo. So, from there, I would like to call on the honourable federal Minister, Andrée Champagne. And once she has made her statement in reaction to your presentation, I would like to ask one of you, if you wish, to conclude and react to her statement if you wish. Honourable Minister.

Response By The Hon. Andrée Champagne, Minister Of State For Youth

HON. ANDRÉE CHAMPAGNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Somebody said earlier that in a way, I was mostly off the hook as a representative of the federal government. After hearing the presentations from the young people, I do not at all feel off the hook. I think that when we talk about the cultural side of it, we are talking about cross-cultural education. Yes, education is not in my jurisdiction but when we are bringing in the cultural content of it, I think it is very much part of the federal jurisdiction. So are acquiring skills, job creation, community support.

One of the things that surprised me in a very beautiful way was the practicality of your recommendations. I mean, nobody has asked for all the snow to disappear in the next six months over the Territories. This is the type of resolution that we have received in some other forums, in other parts of the country. Your recommendations are very matter of fact and I think most of them, with a little help from our friends, we will be able to make some of them become a reality, and I do wish that we will be able to do so.

---Applause

The Question Of Communication

One theme seems to come back, directly or indirectly all over, and it seems to be a question of communication between generations, between governments and the people. We live in the communication age and then you have to request from the media help in letting people know about suicide prevention. You say that you do not have the skills to fill out the available jobs and the business community says that, "Well, there are skills shortages, but you do not seem to be getting together." And, there are existing programs for people to acquire the skills, there is a skills shortages program, there is a program to provide incentives for businesses to create more skilled positions, permanent jobs, and this does not seem to get through. We have a problem of communication. I am really asking you, which way do you think would be the best way to communicate together? Do you read? Is it newspapers, is it magazines, is it through radio, is it through television? We have to find ways to get through.

Today, we have finally reached one point. You have spoken to your Members of Parliament. I was here. You have spoken to your Members of the Assembly. There is a Member of Parliament, I was here as well so we know something. It was the first time we have opened a door. All through the year I have been saying to the young people, "Help thyself and the government shall help you." Last night, Sabrina, you were saying, "What we are really asking is, help us help ourselves." Really, we are saying the same thing but somehow whatever you want and whatever we can give does not get through. We have a communication problem more than anything else and I really want you to help me find these lines of communication. We have got to keep them open now that they have been -- at least the door is ajar today. Communication between you and your elders, you and all levels of government. I think that as long as we will keep on trying, in a way it will be a form of success and the young people will work with us. Now, I am talking as much to my colleagues because if we do not succeed in keeping those lines of communication open I think we will deserve whatever fate they have in store for us 10 or 15 years down the road because they will be where we are today.

We are talking about networking, yes, but please let me know how do we reach the start? Where does it start, where does it end, how does it come back? It has to be a wheel from you to the governments and back to you. This is, I think, what I, as a Minister, have found the most difficult. We are working now on post-International Youth Year programs and how to be in touch with the young people, how to develop new programs. How do we reach you? We cannot have you in this Assembly, in this chamber every day, but how do we reach you? Is it that we have really not been listening? You tell us. I hear you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ms Kim, on behalf of the youth, would you wish to wrap up? Sandy.

MS SANDY KIM: Could I just have one more minute? Sabrina has something to tell me. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of all the youth delegates of the Northwest Territories, I would like to thank all the people who have put in all the work that was required to bring us together. I would like to thank Mme. Champagne for addressing the issue of communication and I feel and I know that all our group feels that for the secretariat that we are trying to establish, achieving communication will be the biggest responsibility for that organization that we are trying to get. During the week we have had many speakers coming and talking to us about how much money is spent on youth in the past in various departments and they would like to find out what has gone wrong and why there are so many youth problems with all that money spent and all the work done, so we feel that obviously there is something that was missing in organizing all those policies and programs and regulations and spending money and we hope that this secretariat will be the link and liaison between the government body and the various youth people all over the Northwest Territories.

I would like to take this chance to ask you, Mme. Champagne, Minister of Youth, if you would like to share 50 per cent cost of establishing this youth secretariat? Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mme. Champagne.

HON. ANDREE CHAMPAGNE: I would first like to know 50 per cent of how much. But I think that certainly through the Secretary of State office and so on, there will be a way, once you have set it up that we will be able to participate and give you some help and maybe work jointly. Whenever we can do things together there is more money to go around than when we have two different offices and two different staff, so let us try and work it together and that gives me a brand new thing to bring to my colleagues next week. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in consultation with some of my colleagues, I wish to, this afternoon, when we convene in formal Assembly, put forward a motion arising out of our deliberations this morning but, Mr. Chairman, I felt that perhaps I could give notice to my fellow MLAs of this motion now and because I am not sure that all the members of the Youth Forum will be present this afternoon, make them aware as well. The substance of the motion, Mr.

Chairman, will be that this Legislative Assembly recommend that the Executive Council review the recommendations made by the youth representatives on October 28th and prepare a formal response to these recommendations for consideration by this Assembly at the next session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Report Of Committee Of The Whole Of Presentations By Delegates To Youth Forum

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the youth delegation for their recommendations and also thank the federal Minister for her input and interest in the recommendations coming from the youth. That concludes the matter before us, so the Speaker will take over from here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has indeed been an interesting morning. I think that everyone has learned various things from it. I want to thank the Minister for being with us today and giving us hope for the future within her department and within her jurisdiction in Ottawa, and to the youth, remember it is up to you. Do not forget the "Y O U" and you are a sure winner if you follow down that type of line.

By the power that has been granted to me by this Assembly I am changing the sitting hours today to 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. This House will stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT